

Message Text

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21

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FM AMCONSUL LUANDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3414

INFO AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY KINSHASA

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PDEV PINT AO

SUBJECT: MPLA PRESS CONFERENCE

1. FLANKED BY MPLA MINISTERS OF INFORMATION MONTEIRO AND OF FINANCE MINGAS, MPLA'S MEMBER OF THE PRESIDENTIAL COUNCIL LOPO DO NASCIMENTO, HELD A WIDE-RANGING PRESS CONFERENCE APRIL 4. THE HIGHLIGHTS FOLLOW:

2. MASSACRES AND THE HIGH COMMISSIONER: ASKED MPLA'S VIEW OF GEN CARDOSO AND WHETHER OR NOT MASSACRES REALLY OCCURRED, LOPO DO NASCIMENTO PRAISED THE HIGH COMMISSIONER'S NEUTRALITY AND SAID AN INQUIRY WOULD DETERMINE THE FACTS SURROUNDING THE ALLEGED "MASSACRES." HE DID VOLUNTEER THAT THE MAJORITY OF RECENT DEATHS WERE MPLA SYMPATHIZERS.

3. ELECTIONS: "MPLA HAS ALWAYS DEFENDED THE PRINCIPLE OF ELECTIONS. THE FACT THAT WE'VE POINTED OUT THE DIFFICULTIES SURROUNDING SUCH A PROCESS (ELECTIONS) DOESN'T MEAN WE'RE AGAINST THEM. EXACTLY THE CONTRARY."

4. BANK NATIONALIZATION: HE LABELED AS "PURE SPECULATION" THE

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IDEA THE TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IS SPLIT - MPLA FOR THE STATE

OWNERSHIP, FNLA AND UNITA FOR PRIVATE CONTROL. (COMMENT: THAT'S EXACTLY HOW THE NEGOTIATIONS BEGAN AND THERE'S YET NO INDICATION THE POSITIONS HAVE CHANGED.)

5. AN INTER-PARTY SUMMIT CONFERENCE: MPLA IS IN FAVOR OF A NETO-ROBERTO-SAVIMBI CONCLAVE IN LUANDA TO UPDATE THE ALVOR ACCORD.

6. INTEGRATED FORCE: A LOGICAL ITEM TO DEAL WITH AT THE SUMMIT. "PORTUGUESE-UNITA PATROLS ARE NOT AN INTEGRATED FORCE."

7. THE ECONOMY: "ACCORDING TO THE MINISTER OF ECONOMY (A PORTUGUESE), CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT SITUATION ANOTHER TWO-THREE MONTHS WILL RESULT IN A CATASTROPHE." ACCORDING TO LOPO DO NASCIMENTO, REVISIONS IN THE BUDGET ARE UNDER STUDY AND THE "NEW ECONOMIC PLAN" IS ABOUT READY. COMMENT: THE NEW ECONOMIC PLAN IS SUPPOSED TO CONTAIN AN INVESTMENT CODE DESIGNED TO REASSURE PORTUGUESE INVESTORS.)
KILLORAN

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